



Friends of Chatterley Whitfield

www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk.

Newsletter - Winter 2016



WELCOME to the Winter 2016 Newsletter.



Heritage Open Weekend at Chatterley Whitfield 2016.....

When did it all start.....?

Well in April as Secretary we got an email from English Heritage reminding organisations, groups etc of the forthcoming Heritage Open Days from Thursday 8th September 2016 to Sunday 11th September 2016.

The weather was kind to us - The weekend was a great success..... We had a total of **214 visitors**, some from as far as London, signed up **14 new members** and made new contacts. Positive feedback from the visitors, hundreds of photographs taken and respective websites and Facebook updated.....

A big THANK YOU to everyone who made it possible.....

Plans already in hand for 2017.....



The Committee - 2017

Chair	Jim McPhillips
Deputy Chair	James Worgan
Secretary	Nigel Bowers
Treasurer	Andrew Bakewell
Membership	Nigel Bowers
Committe	Brittain Adams
	Geoffrey Woodward
	Gerry Etechells

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....

1. To promote the site through the Friends website
2. To work in close co-operation with the City Council in the regeneration of the site
3. To accompany visitors to the site at the request of Stoke City Council
4. To catalogue and digitise (where necessary) the archives in the Deployment Centre

EXCITING NEWS FOR 2017
NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR BEING ON SITE
SATURDAYS 10AM TILL 2PM
More details in Newsletter !

Page 7

£5.00
Membership



The Friends of Chatterley Whitfield took a bold decision and decided to make the Chatterley Whitfield site available to the public on two days this year instead of the one day which had been done in previous years. The reasoning behind this was in 2015 we organised ten tours catering for 250 people. To be honest it was frantic with the small group of guides being kept busy all day. So in 2016 the thoughts were to do two days, Saturday and Sunday, reduce the number of tours to six per day but still cater for 240 people. This would take the pressure off the guides and allow visitors more time on site after the tours. We would have flexibility. There were a lot of unknowns, would the people come, could we get volunteers for both days and would the City Council agree to it?

Decision was made - Open two days, so the event was registered before the first of May with Heritage Open Days and almost immediately requests were being received for tickets. In previous years Stoke on Trent City Council had organised the booking system but due to cut backs they could not help this year. So we organised everything ourselves and used the excellent web site Eventbrite. Once you have sorted out the tour times, Eventbrite does the rest with people using that site to book places..... In addition to Eventbrite we used our well established website and Facebook to promote the event and from April onwards Facebook was particularly busy with requests regarding the open days. The Eventbrite website went 'live' on the first of August and within twelve hours all 240 places for the tours were allocated and when the booking closed at the end of August there was a big waiting list.

So with six weeks to go before the open days, it looked as if we, 'The Friends' were going to get a good turn out, but like every event there were a few issues which may have had a massive effect on the event even going ahead. The one thing we could not predict was the weather, heavy rain and most importantly wind speeds over thirty miles per hour. (Wind speed indicator on site). The other factor was would the City Council allow the visit - Health and Safety..... ?

As we are all aware the Chatterley Whitfield site closed in 1992 and little or no money has been spent on the site, so every year it becomes a challenge to see if it is safe enough to allow members of the public access. 'The Friends' have formed a very good working relationship with Alan Smith, Programme Manager, Directorate of Place, Growth and Prosperity. Working in liaison with his team and especially Stephanie Burkinshaw we were able to establish a safe route around the site and gain access to a few buildings. A comprehensive report was compiled by Stephanie and on the run up to the event weekend, we kept in contact. **THE EVENT WAS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT.....**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.....



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE.....2016/2017

You can renew your membership on line now.....via PAY PAL

I would like to use the internet more to keep you informed about what is happening.

So if you have not already done so please let me have your up to date **email address** and **mobile phone** number so I can use the text messaging service as well.

Oh nearly forgot.....

Email Nigel Bowers, at:

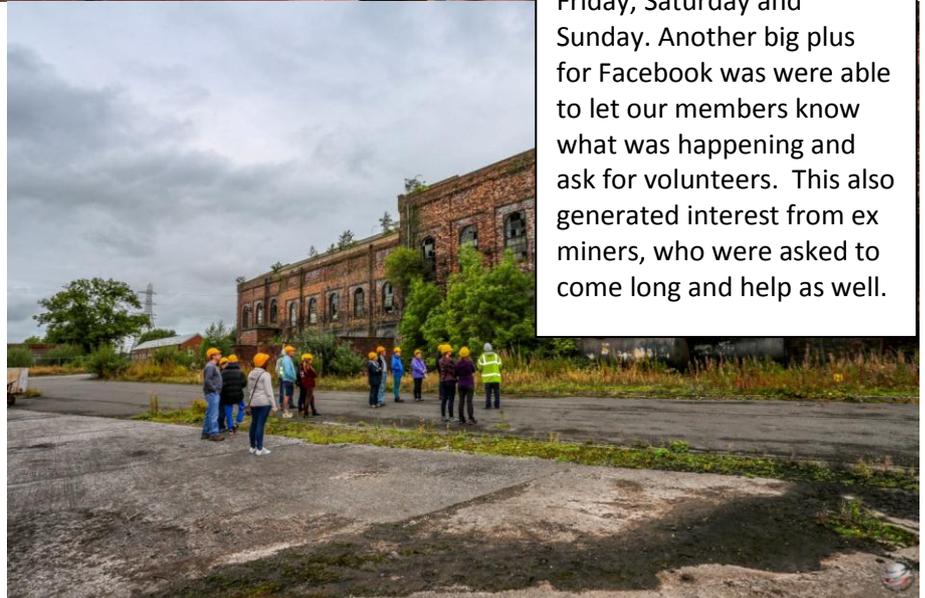
membership@chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk

WEB SITE : www.chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk



On the weeks leading up to the event Facebook played a major part, with people posting requests for tour places and also in the days before the weekend informing us of any cancellations. With the use of Eventbrite we were able to reallocate tour places off the reserve list. We also used Facebook and Eventbrite to update people on the weather forecast, with daily reports on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Another big plus for Facebook was we were able to let our members know what was happening and ask for volunteers. This also generated interest from ex miners, who were asked to come long and help as well.

In the week running up to the Heritage Weekend 'The Friends' were kept busy on site, arranging displays in the Deployment Centre and adopting the recommendations made by the Council regarding access to the some of the building and clearing some areas of the safe route.



The Weekend arrived..... Arriving on site, 'The Friends' welcomed all the volunteers, both regulars and newcomers and following a briefing at nine in the morning we were ready for the first tour starting at ten. This was going to be lead by Jim Worgan, and due to last about ninety minutes, but knowing Jim you never know, once he gets going.....



The tour this year started in the Enterprise Centre (Tour reception and registration) before heading into the Lamp House.



After that walk past the remains of the Boiler House before going into the Area Shaft Building. Then onto what could be described as the 'working area' of the former mine, the pit heads, starting at the Winstanley and heading east towards the Hesketh, via the 1986 Winding House,(Access allowed) Institute and Platt shafts. (Access allowed to view the sidings and Tub Halls)



We were very lucky again this year to be allowed access to the rear of the Hesketh complex, which enabled visitors to see the tub halls and a view down the remains of the sidings.....



The tour ended in the Deployment Centre, part of the pit head baths. In the Deployment Centre 'The Friends' had put on a display of artefacts, maps and books.

Tour one done, only another five more to do on the Saturday and the six more on the Sunday. We managed to conduct the tours with three tours guides who were supported by members of 'The Friends of Chatterley Whitfield' and volunteers.



The weather was kind to us - The weekend was a great success..... We had a total of 214 visitors, some from as far as London, signed up 14 new members and made new contacts. Positive feedback from the visitors, hundreds of photographs taken and respective websites and Facebook updated.....

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THE FUTURE OF CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD - 2017 AND BEYOND.....



The Deployment Centre with new display - Old Display Boards and boxes from the container.

In the Deployment centre we have amassed a bit collection of maps and the Chatterley Whitfield Document Collection, which have been supplemented by recent work with the City Council.

The Friends have been busy this year, still finding documents and articles on site which have been previously inaccessible.

The container continues to give up it's secrets, one being the old display boards which used to be the Lamp House.



There are still some stuff left which will be recovered early next year. We have restricted access and only a small number of people are allowed in the building. Yes, I know Health and Safety, but in this case justified as the building has a glass panelled roof, which is not in the best state of repair.

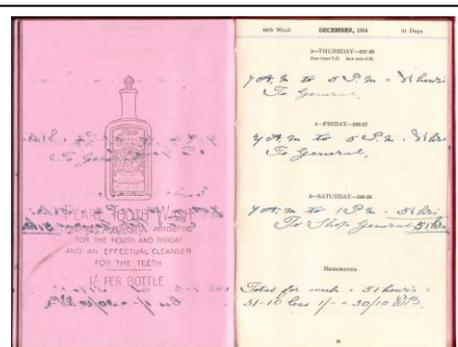
Hopefully one day they'll be online but in the meantime whilst I check through them we'll report back any interesting items

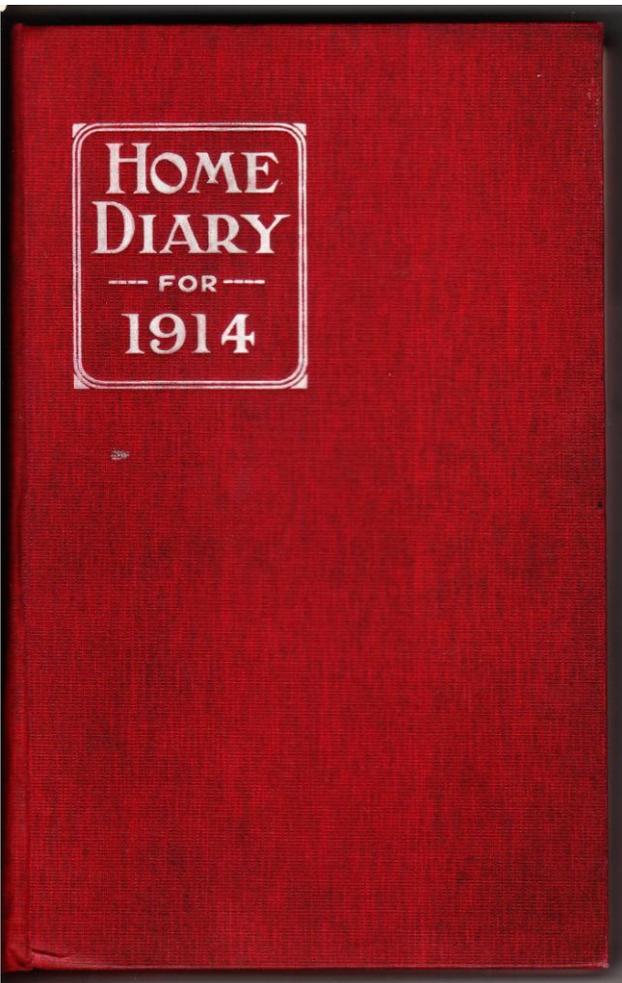
When the 'Friends' are not on site we can often be found doing research on the internet, restoring books and also scanning articles of note.

What has James McPhillips our new Chair been up to.....

A few days ago I read in the Independent newspaper's magazine about the 10 best diaries for 2017, most pretty expensive, but one caught my eye because it mentioned it was fountain pen friendly, which in turn made me think of a box of diaries we have in the archive collection.

These diaries are from 1914 to 1931 for a Mr W Brown in which he records details of work carried out at the Colliery. I presume he worked at Fenton Colliery as a fitter because between the pages of the diaries are his wage slips and found the word fitter is written on the 1931 payslips. (Continued.....on page 6)





Jim McPhillips's work continues:.....

I have not found any payslips for 1914 but on a folded piece of paper inside the rear of the book written in pencil is a list of his weekly wages for the year amounting to £105 -16s – 8d (£105 83p).

Now back to the connection to fountain pens or in Mr Browns case an ink pen, probably not much different to the one I used at school. The one problem with ink pens is you need to dry the ink before you can close the page, so you wait for it to dry or like Mr Brown did purchase a Boots diary with blotting paper for every page.

I've scanned the paper with wages total and some of the pages of the 1914 diary including list of branches, look for four of the six towns on the list.

James McPhillips
Chair

All images will be made available on the website.....
<http://chatterleywhitfieldfriends.org.uk/gallery/?id=50>



We have a number of media sites as well as the main web page.

The most active being Facebook where we have over 1500 viewers from around the globe and we try to put

photographs of interest on the page.....

HERE is one such December 2016;

'When we go onto site every Thursday, we always find time to pop up to the Deployment Centre. Everytime we go into the place we find documents which fascinate us. This time we found a box full of papers, which on closer inspection contained daily records of group visits to the museum. Here are the records for June 1991 - only 25 years ago !'

We received a comment -

Sue Reeves I was on an Employment Training Scheme there as a tour guide during those dates - a very enjoyable period in my life.

We replied-Tell us more !

Sue Reeves Chances are I am the Sue on the 'where met' column and that would have been a case of meeting representatives from both schools and showing them what the museum had to offer, then they would book a future visit. 1881 and 1840 are the two plays that were put on by the education staff. The museum offered a variety of activities for the school parties - handling sessions where the kids could handle various mining artefacts, a film, a trip round the Platt Gallery and the Salt Museum. All of these things the Education staff were responsible for. The coaches were met and the visitors were taken to the lamp room and handed over to the underground guides, who took them on the pit tours. We then met them back on the surface and took them round the site. The Hesketh winding engine also had it's own staff who told the visitors all about it. The schools booked the activities that they were interested, so the tours varied. I still have a thank you letter from one of the schools I took round. We were all on Employment Training Schemes and worked for our dole money plus an extra £10 a week - I think there were 6 of us plus a paid Education Officer. We had to be in at 9 and our day finished at 5. I was living at Fegg Hayes at the time, so it was an easy trip to work. Sorry I can't be more specific, as it was 25 years ago !

June. Date: 7011/9

DAILY RECORD SHEET OF SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED & CONTACTS ESTABLISHED.

KEY: VN = Visitor Number; AT = Arrival Time; DT = Departure Time; F = Film; H = Handling; ST = Site Fee; OTHER = Other Education Services; NO = Number in Party; I = Information Provided; IP = Information Provided; DS = Date Information Sent; SERVICES marked in BLACK (checked); SERVICES in RED (unbooked).

WN	DATE	INSPIRATION	AT	DT	WHERE MET	F	H	ST	OTHER	NO	I	IP	DS	REMARKS
3/6	1991	FRANKFURT & LEBENSHAIN			Car Park					79				tres bon.
3/6	1991	GRICK	10.30		car park					31				Excellent.
3/6	1991	BURNWOOD	9.30	2.45	car park				1940 PLAY	20				V Good (B.W.L!)
4/6	1991	ST THOMAS	11.10	1.00	car park				PIT	34				V Enjoyable.
5/6	1991	WYNDHAM	11.45	1.15	car park				PIT	22				has bon auss!
5/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	"				1840	48				GOOD VISIT. USED WITH PARENTS.
5/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	"				1840	26				V GOOD. FACILITIES DID NOT KNOW ABOUT TOUR.
5/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.45	1.30	"				1840	45				VERY GOOD.
5/6	1991	WYNDHAM	11.00	1.30	car park				1840	27				Very Good.
6/6	1991	WYNDHAM	11.15	1.30	car park				1840	25				VERY GOOD. NOT VERY HAPPY ABOUT CHANGES IN TIME TABLE.
6/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	"				1840	21				VERY GOOD. FACILITIES DID NOT KNOW ABOUT TOUR.
6/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	"				1840	33				SMOOTHING!!
6/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	"				1840	31				GOOD, VERY GOOD.
9/6	1991	WYNDHAM	11.15	1.30	"				1840	45				REALLY ENJOYABLE.
10/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	"				1840	72				NOT HAPPY ABOUT CHANGES IN TIME TABLE.
10/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	64				Great Day, Thanks.
11/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	64				VERY GOOD.
11/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	63				Excellent.
11/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	64				SEASON DAY.
12/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	61				BRILLIANT.
12/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	62				BRILLIANT.
12/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	62				VERY GOOD.
12/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	61				GOOD.
12/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	61				IT'S BEEN SUPER!!!
12/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	69				Really enjoyable.
12/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car park				1840	62				VERY GOOD.
12/6	1991	WYNDHAM	10.30	2.00	car				1840	25				VERY GOOD. NEXT TIME.

THANK YOU.....

'The Friends' made an application to Councillor Ann James, Councillor for Great Chell & Packmoor Ward for funding from the Ward budget. Ann somehow managed to get match funding from Councillor Janine Bridges, Councillor for Great Chell and Packmoor. The application was successful with £1000.00 (£500.00 x 2) being deposited into the 'Friends' account. The money was not ring fenced and through this meeting Nigel Bowers would like to offer his thanks for the support the 'Friends' had been given.

ONCE AGAIN

THANK YOU ANN AND JANINE

WHO CAN VISIT CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD ?

SATURDAYS - ON SITE

10 am till 2pm



WILL EMAIL MEMBERS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST SATURDAY DATE.....

MEMBERS ACCESS TO THE SITE.....



As a member you can visit the site when there are at least two committee members present, who have knowledge of the site. The best time for this being the weekly site visit. However as we have build up a good relationship with the council we can arrange addition days. There are Health and Safety issues and access to the buildings is Not possible, but we still use the designated SAFE route as outlined in the Heritage Open Day Risk Assessment. We still can access the Old Weigh Bridge and the Deployment Centre.

ACCESS TO NO MEMBERS - We regularly get requests from people wanting to access the site, primarily for filming and occasional photography. These requests present a few more issues, as we have to get permission from the council. We do have a generic Management Plan we use and recently have been successful in getting permission for Staffordshire University. They will be on site in February and they are thinking of some additional days for some of their art students.

So you can see we are still busy on the site, BUT remember as members you too have access. Why not get in contact and we can arrange a visit.....



What is Chatterley Whitfield NOW !

It is a site with 33 buildings and a scheduled monument. Our mission is to re-establish as an industrial centre & restore the heritage.

Check out this site and join it, we need to increase our media profile so any potential application for funding could stand a better chance of being successful.

<http://brick-work.org/projects/chatterley-whitfield-former-colliery/>

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD ?

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016

Gerry Etchell's addressed the Annual General Meeting in November and his comments summed up the The Way Forward:

- Better working relationship with Stoke on Trent City Council
- In the past twelve months 'The Friends' had built a good 'foundation' for the future with positive ideas and continued development
- There was more 'Meaning' being brought into the site
- We had and will continue to move in a positive direction. The site over 35 acres is a tricky site, but without the coal industry local industry would not have developed in the way it did.

Behind the scenes Brittain Adams has been very active looking at avenues to explore with regards to preserving the site - Attending meetings..... Networking etc. One such contact already mentioned is the Princes Regeneration Trust BRICKS.

Brittain went to a conference at the Florrie Building, Liverpool where a number of topics were addressed such as Governance Models, Procurement etc

To attract funding Brittain mentioned that we as 'Friends' need to look at governance and a master planning exercise, as well as individual building planning. Then there is preservation, digization work and expanding the oral history project.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ADOPTING A BUILDING ?



As we approach the end of the year we approach that time of reflection....

2016

It hasn't been a bad year for Chatterley Whitfield

We have had visits from a number of students who have used the site for film production, we have had a drone flying around the place, we have managed to get access to the container in one of the buildings, we have had

a great Heritage Open Day Weekend, we have welcomed former miners and attracted more members. We continue to have a good working relationship with the City Council who have been very positive when processing applications for site visits. (Subject to the necessary Health and Safety paperwork etc)

Not everything is positive.....

In November we became aware of some vandalism and break ins which were reported.

Nature continues to make its mark on the site with tress and vegetation growing - Worryingly in the side of some buildings, with the Winstanley and Hesketh looking the worst. Some of the buildings which we used to have access to are getting dangerous to enter and one building has asbestos indentified in the ceiling tiles.



THANKS YOU FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT